

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Paragraph [0135] is amended as follows:

5 [0135] FIGS. 73-77 depict a loading fixture 730 for holding a combined port/disc fastener assembly. The port/disc fastener system is snapped into the fixture, which protects the assembly, protects the user from accidental contact with the hooks, sharpened points, etc., used to fasten the assembly to tissue, prevents premature deployment of the assembly, and allows the user to load the port/disc fastener system into the deployment tool without actually touching the  
10 assembly. The deployment tool is snapped onto the assembly while it is still in the loading fixture 730. Similar to the device passageway of the port cover, the loading fixture has device passageway 739 to allow any tubing to hang freely from the device to be attached without any interference from the loading fixture. FIG. 75 shows how a device may be securely held in place by locking tabs 743 and/or pegs 741. FIG. 76 shows a port/disc fastener assembly being held  
15 securely by the loading fixture. FIG. 77 shows an exploded view of the disc fastener/loading fixture assembly without a port device 10 attached.